

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

AID-05 XMB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 301410Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8846

INFO EC COLLECTIVE 52

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4695

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, PFOR, NL, US

SUBJ: LOCKHEED AND THE PRINCE

REF: THE HAGUE 4647 (NOTAL)

1. THE SECOND CHAMBER OF THE STATES GENERAL, WHICH HEARD PRIMIN DEN UYL DELIVER THE GON'S REPORT ON THE BERNHARD AFFAIR LAST THURSDAY, IS DEBATING THE GOVERNMENTS HANDLING OF THE CASE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS AUG 30. WITH THE SHOCK OF THE AFFAIR STILL AFFECTING THE NATION, THE DEBATE MAY BE RATHER RESERVED. FEW ARE LOOKING FOR MORE BLOOD AND THE GENERAL MOOD IS ONE OF APPROVAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DONNER COMMISSION, SYMPATHY FOR THE QUEEN, AND A RESOLVE TO CARRY ON IN THE FACE OF AN INCALCULABLE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE COUNTRY.

2. BERNHARD'S INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCKHEED, ESPECIALLY HIS

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RECENT EFFORTS TO SECURE "COMMISSIONS" FOR THE SALE OF THE

P-3 ORION CAME AS A SHOCK TO EVEN THE MOST CYNICAL DUTCHMAN. DEN UYL'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT, WITH ITS OPEN WEIGHING OF THE MERITS OF POSSIBLE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, STUNNED PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS AND THE PUBLIC ALIKE. AS A RESULT, THE REPORT, WHICH WAS IMMEDIATELY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN FULL, HAS BECOME A BEST-SELLER. THE FIRST EDITION OF 5,000 COPIES WAS SOLD OUT IMMEDIATELY. THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE IS NOW RUNNING A FOURTH EDITION OF 25,000 COPIES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SOLD IN ADVANCE.

3. WHILE WE HAVE HEARD A SURPRISING NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEAK OUT IN FAVOR OF BRINGING THE PRINCE TO TRIAL, AND THE TINY PACIFIST SOCIALIST PARTY IS EXPECTED TO CALL FOR SUCH ACTION IN PARLIAMENT, THAT COURSE IS UNLIKELY. OTHERS ARE CALLING FOR A REVISION OF THE RULES UNDER WHICH MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OPERATE AND FOR GREATER CABINET CONTROL OVER THEIR AFFAIRS. MILITARY SALES, BOTH PAST AND FUTURE, MAY ALSO COME IN FOR CLOSER SCRUTINY. THERE HAS BEEN SENTIMENT IN PARLIAMENT FOR SOME TIME FOR A REVIEW OF ALL DUTCH DEFENSE PURCHASES OVER THE PAST 10-15 YEARS, BOTH IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE BRIBERY AND ALSO IN RELATION TO CRITERIA USED IN SELECTING ONE ITEM OVER ANOTHER. THE BERNHARD-LOCKHEED DEALINGS PROVIDE A NEW IMPETUS FOR A LOOK AT THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE NETHERLANDS.

4. WE HAVE SEEN VERY LITTLE CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES THUS FAR, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CRANK TELEPHONE CALLS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CALCULATE WHAT THE EFFECT WILL BE OVER THE LONG TERM. IN THE MINDS OF SOME DUTCHMEN, THE US DEFENSE INDUSTRY IS A FORCE UNTO ITSELF, OUT OF CONTROL AND CONTRIBUTING TO INSTABILITY IN THE WORLD. DUTCHMEN MAY BE EXCUSED FOR THINKING THAT, IF LOCKHEED COULD SO EASILY BRIBE SENIOR JAPANESE AND ITALIAN POLITICIANS AND THE PRINCE OF THE NETHERLANDS, WHAT DO THEY AND OTHER DEFENSE GIANTS DO ELSEWHERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COMMISSION REPORT INDICATES THAT THE NETHERLANDS BOUGHT AIRPLANES FROM LOCKHEED, NOT BECAUSE OF BRIBES BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE THE BEST AVAILABLE. THE PRESS HAS COMMENTED ALONG SIMILAR LINES. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD NOT BE EASY FOR THE GOV TO ANNOUNCE A PURCHASE OF LOCKHEED PRODUCTS SOON. BUDGETARY PROBLEMS MAY HAVE SOLVED

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THAT DILEMMA ANYWAY, ALTHOUGH COMMITMENT TO REPLACE THE NAVY'S AGING NEPTUNES STILL EXISTS.
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